

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202**

**POLICY DIRECTIVE  
RSA-PD-FY-93-06**

**DATE** : **June 17, 1993**

**ADDRESSEES** : **STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES  
(GENERAL)  
STATE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCIES (BLIND)  
CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
RSA DISCRETIONARY GRANTEEES  
REGIONAL REHABILITATION CONTINUING EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS  
RSA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**SUBJECT** : Strategic Plan to be Submitted under Part C of Title I of the  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended

**POLICY STATEMENT** : The 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the Act) require that each State prepare and submit to the RSA Commissioner a strategic plan for developing and using innovative approaches for achieving long-term success in expanding and improving vocational rehabilitation services, including supported employment services, provided under the State plan submitted under section 101 of the Act and the supplement to the State plan submitted under part C of title VI. Specifically, section 120 of the Act requires that, effective October 1, 1993, a State must have such a strategic plan in place in order to receive funding under part B of title I of the Act (State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and Client Assistance Program) and part C of title I of the Act (Innovation and Expansion Grants). Prior to the 1992 Amendments, the Act did not contain a requirement for the development of a strategic plan. This Policy Directive provides instructions for the submission of the strategic plan to RSA so that it might be reviewed prior to October 1, 1993.

The strategic plan should be submitted for a three-year period and updated on an annual basis (sec. 122(a) of the Act). Therefore, the strategic plan that will become effective on October 1, 1993, is to cover Federal fiscal years 1994, 1995, and 1996.

The RSA Commissioner has delegated the authority for review of the strategic plan to the Regional Offices. The strategic plan should be submitted to the appropriate RSA Regional Office at the same time the interim Title I State plan and Title VI, Part C supplement are submitted so that the Regional Office will have an opportunity to review the strategic plan prior to October 1. Following review of the strategic plan, the RSA Regional Office will provide any needed technical assistance to

resolve any problems prior to October 1, the effective date of the plan. Final RSA Regional Office action on the strategic plan cannot occur prior to the conclusion of the State's review process (34 CFR part 79), or the passage of at least 60 days from the submittal of the plan to the State review process, whichever occurs first.

The Act requires that public forums be held prior to the development of the strategic plan to obtain input from individuals with disabilities and other interested parties. In addition, the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council must be involved in the development of the plan (sec. 122(b) of the Act). The plan must contain the content required in section 121 of the Act. The State must spend at least 1.5 percent of its allotment under part B of title I of the Act on those activities listed in section 123 of the Act.

Once the strategic plan is developed, the original plan and two copies should be transmitted to the RSA Regional Office under cover of a letter signed by the same State official who has the authority to submit State plan materials. The transmittal letter should encompass the following:

- o description of the materials being transmitted;
- o identification of the effective date for the materials; and
- o request that the materials be reviewed.

After review of the strategic plan is completed by the RSA Regional Office and any necessary changes are incorporated into the plan, the official copy of the plan will be transmitted to the RSA Central Office. The RSA Regional Office will retain one copy of the plan and return the other copy to the State agency.

The procedures for submission and review of annual updates to the strategic plan are identical to those for submission and review of the initial three-year plan.

**CITATIONS IN LAW** : Section 101(a)(34) and title I, part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

**CITATIONS IN REGULATIONS:** 34 CFR Part 80 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations.

**INQUIRIES** : RSA Regional Commissioners

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Acting Commissioner  
Rehabilitation Services Administration